

Testimony in SUPPORT of:

Bill # 1017: An Act Concerning Election Administration.

Bill # 6578: An Act Concerning Participation in Electoral Process

Dear GAE Committee Co-Chairs Sen. Flexer and Rep. Fox, Vice Chairs Sen. Haskell and Rep. Thomas, and Ranking Members Sen. Sampson and Rep. Mastrofrancesco and Members of the GAE Committee,

During the 2020 primary and general election process, Connecticut voters were introduced to a voting system that made casting their votes safe, convenient and accessible to all. It resulted in nearly 80% voter turnout this past election cycle. 35% of us chose to vote by absentee ballot.

Thank you for your recent action toward a referendum vote on amending the CT Constitution to make increased access to voting permanent in our state.

Please continue to make voting easy, convenient and accessible for ALL CT voters by voting **YES** in **SUPPORT** of bill number **1017: An Act Concerning Election Administration** to make the absentee ballot drop boxes permanent and enable voters to request absentee ballots via an online application and in **SUPPORT** of bill number **6578: An Act Concerning Participation in Electoral Process** for automatic voter registration at the DMV and to restore voting rights to parolees.

Drop boxes and online absentee ballot registration will bring CT voting access into the 21st century. Drop boxes mean added convenience. Online registration for absentee ballots already exists in many states. CT should be in the vanguard on this as we are on so many issues, yet currently we lag behind.

I am thrilled that we already have automatic registration at the DMV. However, it is not a protected advantage until it is codified into law.

Finally, parolees have paid their debt to society, and as such, should be encouraged to be engaged participants in the democratic process. Their sense of belonging and civic responsibility benefits all of us.

Please guarantee the easiest, safest and most convenient voting process for all CT voters by voting YES on bill number **1017: An Act Concerning Election Administration** to make the absentee ballot drop boxes permanent and enable voters to request absentee ballots via an online application and in **SUPPORT** of bill number **6578: An Act Concerning Participation in Electoral Process** for automatic voter registration at the DMV and to restore voting rights to parolees.

Thank you for your consideration,

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